

Town of Rhinebeck Highway Department

Newsletter

Kathy Kinsella, Superintendent

Summer 2008

Bob Wyant, Foreman

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Approximately 48 percent of all the miles traveled in New York State occurs on local highways. (Meaning those roads maintained by local municipalities as opposed to state operated roads like the Thruway or Route 9.) The Town of Rhinebeck is responsible for nearly 60 of those centerline miles. This means almost 120 lane miles.

From Ackert Hook Road to Wynkoop Lane, the Town Highway Department is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of, as well as improvements to, our publicly traveled roads, road shoulders and road storm water drainage. The Department maintains traffic safety signs and street name signs, keeps roads clear of obstructions, maintains guiderail, performs snow and ice control, and cares for town bridges as part of its regular duties.

I encourage you to share your ideas with the department. Please let me know if you see a problem on our roads or have a suggestion for a project. Anyone who would like to come to the Town garage and have a tour of our facility is more than welcome; just give me call to arrange a time. The best way to build on our already strong community is by working together.

Travel safely and have a great summer!

Kathy Kinsella

DANGER WARNING: DON'T LEAVE PETS IN CARS

On even a mildly sunny day, your car can become a death trap for pets left inside. Temperatures can rise quickly to fatal levels. Please, never, ever leave your pet inside what becomes a veritable oven.

GET MORE LIFE FROM YOUR TIRES

Like everything else, the price of tires keeps "inflating." Good tire rotation habits can make a real difference in prolonging tire life.

Generally, tires should be rotated every 6,000 to 8,000 miles. Some four-wheel-drive models should be rotated more frequently. Check your owner's manual for the manufacturer's recommendation.

Not all tires should rotate the same way. Again, follow the manufacturer's recommended pattern. Some newer, specialty tires should never switch sides, just front to rear.

It is important to check the air pressure after each rotation. Keep in mind that some vehicles require higher psi for rear tires.

Tires are one of the most important safety features on your vehicle. Please check wear and inflation regularly and drive safely.

CONTACT US

Please do not hesitate to let us know if there is any condition that needs our attention or if you have any questions about the work we are doing. Our phone number is 845-876-6263 and our e-mail address is rhinebeckroads@hvc.rr.com

Dig Safely: Call 811

Dig Safely New York is a cooperative effort among municipalities, utilities and contractors to ensure safe digging in New York State. A single utility line hit can potentially cost thousands of dollars in damage to property and infrastructure, as well as the hardship of lost utility service to you and your neighbors. Utilities can be buried only a few inches underground, making them easy to strike even during shallow digs. Anyone planning digging work, from professional contractors to private homeowners, should call Dig Safely before beginning any digging.

A simple three digit phone number is all you need to remember to access Dig Safely and help minimize risk before you dig. 811 provides an efficient, easy process for getting underground utilities marked for free. Just call 811 at least ten days before you dig, describe the project, and then wait for the site to be marked. Markings can be in the form of color-coded flags, stakes or paint. Once the site is marked, you will have a better understanding of what utilities you may encounter and the precautions you should take.

Remember: calling is FREE and simple, so please call 811 Before You Dig.

For more information about the Dig Safely program, please visit www.digsafelynewyork.com

WHAT DOES THIS SIGN MEAN?



The picture at left indicates a warning that one is approaching a stop sign that may be hidden from advance view. The stop might be around a curve or over a hill, concealing it from view. This sign provides motorists with advance warning so that they may be prepared to come to the required full stop. This sign is used internationally.

TRIVIA QUESTION

In what year was NYSDOT formed as a comprehensive agency responsible for highways, bridges, rail services, public transit, air sites and ports?

A) 1937

B) 1947

C) 1957

D) 1967

Answer below

DID YOU KNOW?

Rhinecliff is the third busiest Amtrak station in New York State. (Source: Empire State Passenger Association, 02/08)

Back issues of the Highway Department newsletter are available on request.
Please call 845-876-6263 or e-mail rhinebeckroads@hvc.rr.com

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